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REVIEWS

Criminalité et conditions économiques. Par W. A. BONGER, Docteur en Droit. Amsterdam: G. P. Tierie, 1905. Pp. 750.

The plan of this large work leads the reader through abstracts of the arguments on the subject found in the discussions of eminent students of crime. Here is brought together a vast amount of useful material from a wide range of literature; early writers like More, Rousseau, and Beccaria; statisticians like Quetelet, Ducpetiaux, von Oettingen, and Mayr; representative Italians, like Lombroso, Garofalo, and Niceforo; Tarde and Manouvrier in France; "bio-sociologists" like Prins, Morrison, and Wright; "spiritualists" like Proal and Joly; men of the *terza scuola*, like Colajanni; and socialists like Bebel. All these statements are subjected to criticism from the standpoint of the author, and illustrated with tables of statistics published by all modern nations.

In the second part we find an elaborate discussion on the basis of socialistic philosophy or "scientific socialism." In the phrases and modes of thought made familiar in the classics of socialism we have the Marxian categories, the materialistic explanation of history and community life, the bourgeoisie and proletariat, the criticism of marriage, alcoholism, and militarism, and all the evil consequences of capitalism. Finally the phenomena of crime are treated elaborately in many aspects. At the close the author sums up his conclusions. Economic conditions occupy a larger place in the causation of crime than most authors who have studied the question have attributed to them. The capitalistic system retards the development of the social sentiments. The basis of our present economic system being exchange, the interests of men are necessarily in antagonism. Most men are deprived of the means of production, and thus are made dependents of those who control capital. This enables employers to use up the very lives of the working-people and to hold them at the margin of subsistence. This condition destroys the human sympathy of the rich, creates in them tyranny, and in the poor jealousy and servility. Avarice and luxury tend further to deaden social sympathy in the leisure class. Poverty depresses the

physical and intellectual state of the wage-earners. Children are exploited by profit-mongers and made immoral by the degrading contacts of premature factory labor. Habitations are unfit for decent living, and ignorance is the heritage of poverty. The inferior economic position of women tends to lower her character and perpetuate prostitution. The family is charged with the responsibility of educating the children—a task for which many parents have neither means nor preparation. Prostitution, militarism, and alcoholism have their primary sources in economic conditions. The analysis goes into the economic explanation of each particular kind of crime.

The conclusion, the author thinks, is encouraging; for if crime were the result of atavism or direct heredity, nothing could be done to prevent it; but since it is the result of social arrangements, it can be removed by improvements within the power of man to make. Of course, the only redemption lies in socializing the instruments of production. With socialism there will be no more extreme misery to drive men to violence and fraud, and women to vice. Monopoly would not oppress, and the contrasts of misery and insolent riches would not madden those whose destitution robs them of all share in intellectual pleasure, and leaves only alcohol and animal satisfactions. No longer would children be left to be spoiled by incompetent parents, for the educational resources of the nation would be at the service of all. War and armies would be unknown, and political crimes would disappear with politics. Such is the argument and conclusion of a very learned work, which deserves attention even from those who expect from the coming socialism slavery and stagnation rather than paradise and universal sympathy.

There is one representation (p. 435) which calls for remark. It is the suggestion that the criminal law is made by the ruling class and for their own benefit. Admitting that class legislation has not yet been entirely abolished, it might be pertinent to ask those who make such insinuations what crimes they would omit from the list of punishable acts in civilized countries. Certainly all those acts which injure person, property, reputation, order, security, and morality are quite as important to the so-called proletariat as to the millionaires. Even in the cases the author cites relating to restrictions of disturbances by trades-unions, it might be shown that wage-earners themselves are most injured by violence and misrule, and also by the needless suspension of production. It is doubtful if any

reasonable socialist would, in exercising the powers of a censor in his republic of dreamland, omit many pages from the penal code of modern countries. If he insisted on the more thorough application of this code to men who buy immunity with stolen wealth and count on the magnitude of their crimes to secure respect where the common jail would be most appropriate, they would find sympathizers enough outside their ranks.

C. R. HENDERSON

Report of the Commissioner of Education for the Year Ending June 30, 1904. Washington, 1906.

There is occasionally a suggestion that these reports are tardy and of secondary value; and it is true that they must compete with swift rivals. But the students of social pedagogics would have great difficulty in securing the tabulated material here periodically brought together, and many worthy discussions are made widely accessible in this form. In this report one finds the usual tables of statistics of elementary, secondary, and higher education in the United States. Brief statements are made of the educational exhibits at the St. Louis Exposition. Among the special articles on education are a digest of school laws, the work and influence of Hampton, papers by Dr. Harris on various themes, the length of teachers' service, chronology of universities, and the statutes of the Nobel Foundation. The information about schools for defective and abnormal persons is particularly acceptable to students of charity. It is to be regretted that there could not be given in connection with the account of juvenile delinquency and the compulsory training law in Germany, some information in regard to the remarkable new laws, akin to those governing our juvenile courts, introduced since 1900 in Prussia and other German states. But the necessity for the improved methods is clearly set forth in the Loening discussion. Very keen is the paper of Mr. F. Dupré La Tour, who made an extended study of the American customs in regard to alcoholic drinks and our methods of reform. Dr. Harris well says: "Mr. La Tour displays throughout a keen insight into and a ready grasp of the conditions prevailing in this country, which, together with his friendly criticisms from the point of view of an outside observer, render his paper a valuable contribution to the literature of the subject."

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